
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LAUNCH OF HŌKŪLE'A.

1 WHEREAS, the vast, blue expanse of the Pacific Ocean
2 connects thousands of islands and related cultures; and more
3 than 6,000 years ago, the world's largest ocean became the stage
4 for one of the greatest feats in human history; and
5

6 WHEREAS, early Pacific seafarers journeyed beyond the
7 shores of home to explore more than 10 million square miles of
8 ocean, well before Europeans ventured across the smaller
9 Atlantic; and carrying on open canoes all provisions needed for
10 the voyage and a new life, the voyagers discovered and settled
11 on distant islands, some less than a mile in diameter; and
12

13 WHEREAS, these intrepid wayfinders used stars, winds,
14 waves, birds, and other patterns observed in nature to chart
15 their courses; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the last of the Polynesian voyaging canoes, or
18 wa'a kaulua, disappeared in the 1400s, and in the 1970s, artist
19 and author Herb Kāne dreamed of building a double-hulled sailing
20 canoe for the first time in centuries, and through the idea
21 brought together people of diverse backgrounds and professions
22 to form the Polynesian Voyaging Society, founded in 1973, by
23 Herb Kāne, Ben Finney, and Tommy Holmes; and
24

25 WHEREAS, on March 8, 1975, the Polynesian Voyaging Society
26 launched its first wa'a kaulua - Hōkūle'a - from the sacred
27 shores of Hakipu'u in Kāne'ōhe Bay on the island of O'ahu; its
28 design was a replica based on oral traditions, sketches, and
29 petroglyphs of ancient canoes of the Pacific Islands; and



1 WHEREAS, Mau Piailug bravely shared his knowledge of
2 wayfinding with people outside of his family, island, and
3 Micronesia, and raised Tahiti from the sea in 1976, with a
4 dedicated crew of first-time voyagers intent on revitalizing
5 their culture and traditional knowledge; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the successful arrival of Hōkūleʻa in Tahiti in
8 1976, via traditional, non-instrument navigation marked a
9 renewal of traditional voyaging and wayfinding; and Hōkūleʻa's
10 safe return home by an equally dedicated crew has inspired
11 generations to be proud of their Pacific heritage, and to
12 continue to seek inclusive island values of sustainability,
13 responsibility, and mutual respect and caring; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Hōkūleʻa continues to bring people together from
16 all walks of life; the winds of her crew's mentors and ancestors
17 have carried the Hōkūleʻa more than 150,000 nautical miles
18 throughout the Pacific Ocean during the past 40 years; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Hōkūleʻa is more than a voyaging canoe; she
21 represents a design shared by the people of Hawaiʻi, the Pacific,
22 and the world to perpetuate and protect our most cherished
23 values and places from disappearing; and
24

25 WHEREAS, 40 years from the Hōkūleʻa's first splash into the
26 sea, with navigators who are using the same traditional
27 knowledge and techniques that steered their ancestors before
28 them, Hōkūleʻa will continue to voyage beyond the Pacific on her
29 Mālama Honua voyage, to include approximately 47,000 nautical
30 miles, 85 ports, and 26 nations; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the voyage, which began in Hawaiʻi in 2013, and
33 will continue through 2017, seeks to engage all of Island Earth;
34 demonstrating how to live sustainably, while sharing Polynesian
35 culture, learning from the past and from each other, creating
36 global relationships, and discovering the wonders of this
37 precious place we call home; and



1 WHEREAS, Hōkūle'a continues to be a floating classroom for
2 Hawai'i, building on the awareness and understanding generated
3 from her historic launching in 1975, the courageous sailing of
4 her first deep-sea crews in 1976, and the creation of future
5 leaders and educators who have grown up with the knowledge that
6 each crew member on our respective wa'a, islands, and planet
7 share the honored kuleana of caring for each other and our
8 homes; and
9

10 WHEREAS, for the past 12 years, Hōkūle'a has called Honolulu
11 Community College's Marine Education and Training Center home;
12 the director and staff of the Marine Education and Training
13 Center have provided invaluable support to the Polynesian
14 Voyaging Society and Hōkūle'a by providing space, a safe learning
15 environment, acumen in vessel repair and maintenance, and a
16 welcome environment for staff, students, and thousands of
17 volunteers who have assisted with Hōkūle'a's extensive dry dock
18 work, crew training, navigation training, and logistical
19 support; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2015, that this body hereby recognizes and honors the
24 Polynesian Voyaging Society on the 40th anniversary of the launch
25 of the Polynesian voyaging canoe, Hōkūle'a, the members of the
26 first crews who sailed her from Hawai'i to Tahiti and back in
27 1976, the many volunteers and employees of the Polynesian
28 Voyaging Society who supported the Hōkūle'a's many voyages over
29 the past 40 years, and the University of Hawai'i's Honolulu
30 Community College and its Marine Education and Training Center,
31 which have helped to house and care for her.
32
33
34

OFFERED BY:





